

Message Text

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70

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 NEA-10 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-15 CU-04 NIC-01 IO-13 ACDA-19 EA-11 RSR-01 /163 W

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R 011635Z JUL 73

FM USMISSION BERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2169

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY APRIS

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AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY BONN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, XF, IS, GE

SUBJECT: ARAFAT AT WORLD YOUTH FESTIVAL

DEPT PASS USINT CAIRO

REF: A. BERLIN 1298 (NOTAL)

B. BERLIN A-174, JULY 16 (NOTAL)

C. BERLIN A-173, JULY 13 (NOTAL)

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1. NEUES DEUTSCHLAND (ND) JULY 31 GAVE PROMINENT PLAY

TO PLO CHAIRMAN YASSIR ARAFAT'S PRESS CONFERENCE IN EAST BERLIN IN CONNECTION WITH JULY 30 ARAB SOLIDARITY DAY AT TENTH WORLD YOUTH FESTIVAL (WYF). ACCORDING ND, ARAFAT WAS PARTICULARLY POINTED IN HIS CONDEMNATION OF SKYJACKING AS POLITICAL INSTRUMENT, SAYING THAT "PALESTINIAN PEOPLE WILL FIGHT WITH POLITICAL, MILITARY, IDEOLOGICAL AND OTHER METHODS, BUT ARE NOT PREPARED TO ENGAGE IN SUCH SENSELESS ACTIONS AS HIJACKING OF AIR-CRAFT." ARAFAT ALSO VIGOROUSLY ATTACKED FRG CHANCELLOR BRAND'S REPORTED PROMISE OF MATERIAL AID TO ISRAEL, WHICH HE CLAIMED WOULD RAPIDLY BE TRANSFORMED INTO "BOMBS WHICH FALL ON PEACEFUL VILLAGES AND SHELLS WHICH RAKE THE BODIES OF INNOCENT CHILDREN." ARAFAT FURTHER ACCUSED FRG POLITICIANS OF ENGAGING IN "IMPERIALIST PLANS" DESIGNED TO "SUPPRESS OUR STUDENTS AND WORKERS IN WEST GERMANY AS WELL AS (PALESTINIAN) TRAVELLERS TO WEST GERMANY."

2. COMMENT. GDR RED-CARPET TREATMENT FOR ARAFAT TENDS TO SUSTANTIATE RUMORS THAT EAST GERMANS HAVE AGREED TO INCREASE THEIR SUPPORT FOR PALESTINIAN ACTIVITIES. SPECULATION HERE IS THAT SED POLITBURO MEMBER GERHARD GRUENEBERG WORKED OUT DETAILS OF SUCH AN ARRANGMENT WITH ARAFAT DURING THEIR JUNE 24 MEETING IN BEIRUT. DEAL REPORTEDLY INCLUDES ESTABLISHMENT OF PLO OFFICE IN EAST BERLIN (ITS FIRST IN WARSAW PACT AREA). IT APPEARS OBVIOUS THAT GDR'S IMMEDIATE INTEREST IN WOOING ARAFAT AT THIS JUNCTURE WAS TO SEEK PLO ASSISTANCE IN SUPPRESSING POSSIBLE TERRORIST ATTACKS ON ISRAELI DELEGATIONS DURING WYF. IN WORKING OUT LONGER-TERM RELATIONSHIP, WE BELIEVE GDR ALSO ATTEMPTED TO IMPOSE CONDITIONS ON NEW PLO OFFICE TO ASSURE IT DOES NOT BECOME RADICAL OR TERRORIST HOT-BED AND POSSIBLY MAR EAST GERMANY'S NEW-FOUND INTERNATIONAL RESPECTABILITY. JOINT ARAFAT-GRUENEBERG COMMUNIQUE CALLING ON ARAB STATES TO USE ONLY THOSE FORMS OF STRUGGLE WHICH COMPLY WITH UN CHARTER AND ARAFAT'S SKYJACKING STATEMENT TEND TO CONFIRM THIS BELIEF.

3. ONE INTERESTING FOOTNOTE TO ARAFAT'S COMMENTS ON LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FRG ALLEGED HARSH TREATMENT OF PALESTINIAN STUDENTS AND WORKERS; SO FAR ONLY ARABIC DELEGATIONS TO WYF HAVE BEEN SUBJECTED BY GDR BORDER GUARDS TO SYSTEMATIC BODY AND LUGGAGE SEARCHES UPON ENTRY INTO EAST BERLIN.BORG

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED USINT CAIRO.

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